

PEE

The daring flames *peep* in, and faw from far
The awful beauties of the sacred quire;
But since it was prophand by civil war,
Heav'n thought it fit to have it purg'd by fire. *Dryden*
From each tree
The feather'd people look down to *peep* on me. *Dryden*
Those remote and vast bodies were formed not merely to
be *peep* at through an optick glass. *Bentley's Sermons*
O my muse, just distance keep;
Thou art a maid, and must not *peep*. *Prior*
In vain his little children *peeping* out
Into the mingling storm, demand their fire. *Thomson*
PEEP. *n. f.*
1. First appearance: as, at the *peep* and first break of day.
2. A fly look.
Would not one think, the almanackmaker was crept out
of his grave to take t' other *peep* at the stars. *Swift*
PEEPER. *n. f.* Young chickens just breaking the shell.
Dishes I chuse, though little, yet genteel;
Snails the first course, and *peepers* crown the meal. *Bramst.*
PEEPHOLE. *n. f.* [*peep* and *hole*.] Hole through which
PEEPINGHOLE. *n. f.* one may look without being discovered.
By the *peephole* in his crest,
Is it not virtually confest,
That there his eyes took distant aim. *Prior*
The fox spied him through a *peepinghole* he had found out
to see what news. *L'Estrange*
PEER. *n. f.* [*pair*, French.]
1. Equal; one of the same rank.
His *peers* upon this evidence
Have found him guilty of high treason. *Shakespeare*
Amongst a man's *peers*, a man shall be sure of familiarity;
and therefore it is good a little to keep state. *Bacon*
Oh! what is man, great maker of mankind!
That thou to him for great respect do'st bear!
That thou adorn'st him with so bright a mind,
Mak'st him a king, and ev'n an angel's *peer*. *Davies*
2. One equal in excellence or endowments.
In long he never had his *peer*,
From sweet Cecilia down to chancicler. *Dryden*
3. Companion: fellow.
He all his *peers* in beauty did surpass. *Fairy Queen*
If you did move to-night,
In the dances, with what flight
Of your *peers* you were beheld,
That at every motion swell'd. *Benj. Johnson*
Who bear the bows were knights in Arthur's reign,
Twelve they, and twelve the *peers* of Charlemagne. *Dryd.*
4. A nobleman: of nobility we have five degrees, who are all
nevertheless called *peers*, because their essential privileges are
the same.
I see thee compass with thy kingdom's *peers*,
That speak my salutation in their minds:
Hail king of Scotland! *Shakespeare Macbeth*
King Henry's *peers* and chief nobility
Destroy'd themselves, and lost the realm of France. *Shakesf.*
Be just in all you say, and all you do;
Whatever be your birth, you're sure to be
A *peer* of the first magnitude to me. *Dryden*
TO PEEP. *v. n.* [*By contraction from appear*.]
1. To come just in sight.
As the sun breaks through the darkest clouds,
So honour *peereth* in the meanest habit. *Bacon*
Yet a many of your horsemen *peer*,
And gallop o'er the field. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*
Ev'n through the hollow eyes of death
I spy life *peering*. *Shakespeare*
See how his gorget *peers* above his gown,
To tell the people in what danger he was. *Ben. Johnson*
Hell itself will pass away,
And leave her dolorous mansion to the *peering* day. *Milt.*
2. To look narrowly; to *peep*.
Now for a clod-like hare in form they *peer*,
Now bolt and cudgel squirrels leap do move,
Now the ambitious lark with mirror clear
They catch, while he, fool! to himself makes love. *Sidn.*
Peering in maps for ports, and *peers*, and roads,
And every object that might make me fear
Misfortune to my ventures. *Shakespeare's Merch. of Venice*
PEERAGE. *n. f.* [*pairie*, Fr. from *peer*.]
1. The dignity of a *peer*.
His friendships he to few confin'd;
No fools of rank or mongrel breed,
Who fain would pass for Lords indeed;
Where titles give no right or power,
And *peerage* is a wither'd flower. *Swift*
2. The body of *peers*.
Not only the penal laws are in force against papists, and
their number is contemptible, but also the *peerage* and com-
mons are excluded from parliament. *Dryden*
PEERDOM. *n. f.* [*from peer*.] *Peerage*. *Ainsworth*
PEERLESS. *n. f.* [*female of peer*.] The lady of a *peer*; a wo-
man ennobled.

PEG

Statesman and patriot ply alike the stocks;
Peers and butler share alike the box. *Pope*
PEERLESS. *adj.* [*from peer*.] Unequalled; having no *peer*.
I bind, *Shakespeare*
On pain of punishment, the world to weat,
We stand up *peerless*. *Shakespeare*
You,
So perfect, and so *peerless*, are created
Of every creature's best. *Shakespeare's Tempest*
Her *peerless* feature, joined with her birth,
Approves her fit for none, but for a king. *Shakespeare*
Hesperus, that led
The starry host, rode brightest; till the moon,
Rising in clouded majesty, at length,
Apparent queen, unveil'd her *peerless* light. *Milton*
Such music worthiest were to blaze
The *peerless* light of her immortal praise,
Whole lute leads us. *Milton*
Her dress, her shape, her matchless grace,
Were all observ'd, as well as heav'nly face;
With such a *peerless* majesty the stands,
As in that day she took the crown. *Dryden*
PEERLESSNESS. *n. f.* [*from peerless*.] Universal superiority.
PEEVISH. *adj.* [*This word Junius*, with more reason than he
commonly discovers, supposes to be formed by corruption from
perverse; *Skinner* rather derives it from *beefish*, as we say
wasfish.] *Petulant*; *wasfish*; easily offended; irritable;
iracible; soon angry; *perverse*; *morose*; querulous; full of
expressions of discontent; hard to please.
For what can breed more *peevish* incongruities,
Than man to yield to female lamentations. *Sidney*
She is *peevish*, fullen, froward,
Proud, disobedient, stubborn, lacking duty.
If thou hast the metal of a king,
Being wrong'd as we are by this *peevish* town,
Turn thou the mouth of thy artillery,
As we will ours, against these saucy walls. *Shakespeare*
I will not presume
To send such *peevish* tokens to a king. *Shakespeare*
Those deserve to be doubly laugh'd at, that are *peevish* and
angry for nothing to no purpose. *L'Estrange*
Neither will it be satire or *peevish* invective to affirm, that
infidelity and vice are not much diminished. *Swift*
PEEVISHLY. *adv.* [*from peevish*.] *Angrily*; querulously;
morosely.
He was so *peevishly* opiniative and proud, that he would
neither ask nor hear the advice of any. *Hayward*
PEEVISHNESS. *n. f.* [*from peevish*.] *Iracibility*; querulous-
ness; fretfulness; perverseness.
Some miscarriages in government might escape through the
peevishness of others, envying the publick should be managed
without them. *King Charles*
It will be an unpardonable, as well as childish *peevishness*,
if we undervalue the advantages of our knowledge, and neg-
lect to improve it. *Locke*
You may find
Nothing but acid left behind:
From passion you may then be freed,
When *peevishness* and spleen succeed. *Swift*
PEG. *n. f.* [*pegge*, Teutonic.]
1. A piece of wood driven into a hole, which does the office of
an iron nail.
Solid bodies foreflew rain; as boxes and *pegs* of wood,
when they draw and wind hard. *Bacon*
The teeth are about thirty in each jaw; all of them clavi-
culares or *peg* teeth, not much unlike the tusks of a mastiff.
Grew's Anatomy
If he pretends to be choleric, we shall treat him like his
little friend Dicky, and hang him upon a *peg* till he comes to
himself. *Addison's Guardian*, N^o 108.
The *pegs* and nails in a great building, though they are but
little valued in themselves, are absolutely necessary to keep the
whole frame together. *Addison's Spectator*
A finer petticoat can neither make you richer, more vir-
tuous or wise, than if it hung upon a *peg*. *Swift*
2. The pins of an instrument in which the strings are strained.
You are well tun'd now; but I'll let down
The *pegs* that make this music. *Shakespeare Othello*
3. To take a *peg* lover; to depress; to sink: perhaps from re-
laxing the cords of musical instruments.
Remember how in arms and politics,
We still have work'd all your holy tricks,
Trepann'd your party with intrigue,
And took your grandees down a *peg*. *Hudibras*
4. The nickname of Margaret.
TO PEG. *v. a.* To fasten with a *peg*.
I will rend an oak,
And *peg* thee in his knotty entrails, 'till
Thou'st howl'd away twelve winters. *Shakespeare's Tempest*
Taking the shoots of the past spring, and *pegging* them
down in very rich earth, by that time twelvemonth they will
be ready to remove. *Evelyn's Calendar*
PELF.

PEL

PELF. *n. f.* [*In low Latin, peltra*, not known whence derived;
pelisse, in Norman, is *frispey*.] Money; riches.
The thought of this doth pass all worldly *pel*. *Sidney*
Hardy elf,
Thou dar'st view my direful countenance,
I read thee rash and heedless of thyself,
To trouble my still seat and heaps of precious *pel*. *Fairy Queen*
Immortal gods, I crave no *pel*;
I pray for no man but myself.
He call'd his money in;
But the prevailing love of *pel*
Soon split him on the former self:
He put it out again. *Dryden's Horace*
To the poor if he refus'd his *pel*,
He us'd them full as kindly as himself.
There are two sorts of *pelicans*; one lives upon the water
and feeds upon fish; the other keeps in deserts, and feeds
upon serpents and other reptiles: the *pelican* has a peculiar
tenderness for its young; it generally places its nest upon a
craggy rock: the *pelican* is supposed to admit its young to
suck blood from its breast. *Calmet*
Should discarded fathers
Have this little mercy on their flesh;
'Twas this flesh begot those *pelican* daughters. *Shakespeare*
The *pelican* hath a beak broad and flat, like the sice of
apothecaries. *Hakewill on Providence*
PELL. *n. f.* [*from pila*, Lat. *pelote*, Fr.]
1. A little ball.
That which is fold to the merchants, is made into little
pellets, and sealed. *Sandys*
I dressed with little *pellets* of lint. *Wifeman's Surgery*
2. A bullet; a ball.
The force of gunpowder hath been ascribed to rarefaction
of the earthy substance into flame, and so followeth a dilata-
tion; and therefore, left two bodies should be in one place,
there must needs also follow an expulsion of the *pellet* or
blowing up of the mine: but these are ignorant speculations;
for flame, if there were nothing else, will be suffocated with
any hard body, such as a *pellet* is, or the barrel of a gun; so
as the hard body would kill the flame. *Bacon*
A cube or *pellet* of yellow wax as much as half the spirit
of wine, burnt only eighty-seven pulses. *Bacon*
How shall they reach us in the air with those *pellets* they
can hardly roll upon the ground. *L'Estrange*
In a shooting trunk, the longer it is to a certain limit, the
more forcibly the air passes and drives the *pellet*. *Ray*
PELLETED. *adj.* [*from pellet*.] Consisting of bullets.
My brave Egyptians all,
By the discarding of this *pelleted* storm, *Shakespeare*
Lie graveless. *Shakespeare*
PELLICLE. *n. f.* [*pellucula*, Lat.]
1. A thin skin.
After the discharge of the fluid, the *pellicle* must be broke.
It is often used for the film which gathers upon liquors im-
pregnated with salts or other substances, and evaporated by
heat. *Sharp's Surgery*
PELLITORY. *n. f.* [*parietaria*, Lat.] An herb.
The *pellitory* hath an apetalous flower, whose flower cup is
divided into four parts, which is sometimes bell-shaped like a
funnel, with four stamina or threads surrounding the pointal,
which becomes for the most part an oblong seed, surrounded
by the flower cup; to which may be added, the flowers are
produced from the wings of the leaves. *Miller*
PELMELL. *n. f.* [*pelte melle*, Fr.] Confusedly; tumultuously;
one among another.
When we have dash'd them to the ground,
Then desce each other; and *pell mell*
Make work upon ourselves. *Shakespeare's King John*
Never yet did insurrection want
Such moody beggars, starving for a time
Of *pellmell* havock and confusion.
He knew when to fall on *pellmell*,
To fall back and retreat as well. *Hudibras*
PELLS. *n. f.* [*pellis*, Lat.]
Clerk of the *pelles*, an officer belonging to the exchequer,
who enters every teller's bill into a parchment roll called *pellis*
acceptorum, the roll of receipts; and also makes another roll
called *pellis exituum*, a roll of the disbursements. *Bailey*
PELLUCID. *adj.* [*pellucidus*, Lat.] Clear; transparent;
not opaque; not dark.
The colours are owing to the intermixture of foreign matter
with the proper matter of the stone: this is the case of agates
and other coloured stones, the colours of several whereof may
be extracted, and the bodies rendered as *pellucid* as crystal,
without sensibly damaging the texture. *Woodward*
If water be made warm in any *pellucid* vessel emptied of
air, the water in the vacuum will bubble and boil as vehe-
ment as it would in the open air in a vessel set upon the fire,
till it conceives a much greater heat. *Newton's Opticks*

PEN

PELLUCIDITY. *n. f.* [*from pellucid*.] Transparency; clear-
PELLUCIDNESS. *n. f.* nefs; not opacity.
The air is a clear and *pellucid* menstruum, in which the
insensible particles of dissolved matter float, without troubling
the *pellucidity* of the air; when on a sudden by a precipitation
they gather into visible misty drops that make clouds. *Locke*
We consider their *pellucidness* and the vast quantity of light,
that passes through them without reflection. *Keil*
PELT. *n. f.* [*from pellis*, Lat.]
1. Skin; hide.
The camels hair is taken for the skin or *pel* with the hair
upon it. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*
A scabby tetter on their *pelts* will stick,
When the raw rain has pierc'd them to the quick. *Dryden*
2. The quarry of a hawk all torn.
PELT-MONGER. *n. f.* [*pellis*, Lat. *pel* and *monger*.] A dealer
in raw hides.
TO PELT. *v. a.* [*peltern*, German, *Skinner*; contracted from
pellet, Mr. Lye.] It is generally used of something thrown,
rather with teasing frequency than destructive violence.
1. To strike with something thrown.
Poor naked wretches whereof'er you are
That bide the *pelting* of this pitiless storm!
How shall your houseless heads and unfed sides,
Your loop'd and window'd raggedness defend you. *Shakespeare*
Do but stand upon the foaming shore,
The chiding billows seem to *pel* the clouds. *Shakespeare*
No zealous brother there would want a stone
To maul us cardinals, and *pel* pope Joan. *Dryden*
Obscure persons have insulted men of great worth, and
*pel*ted them from coverts with little objections. *Atterbury*
The whole empire could hardly subdue me, and I might
easily with stones *pel* the metropolis to pieces. *Gulstover*
2. To throw; to cast.
My Phillis me with *pel*ted apples plies,
Then tripping to the woods the wanton hies. *Dryden*
PELTING. *adj.* This word in *Shakespeare* signifies, I know not
why, mean; paltry; pitiful.
Could great men thunder, Jove could ne'er be quiet;
For every *pelting* body officer
Would use his heav'n for thunder. *Shakespeare*
Fogs falling in the land,
Have every *pelting* river made so proud,
That they have overborn their continents. *Shakespeare*
They from sheepcotes and poor *pelting* villages
Enforce their charity. *Shakespeare*
A tenement or *pelting* farm.
PELVIS. *n. f.* [*Latin*.] The lower part of the belly.
PEN. *n. f.* [*penna*, Latin.]
1. An instrument of writing.
Never durst poet touch a *pen* to write,
Until his ink were temper'd with love's sighs. *Shakespeare*
Eternal deities!
Who write whatever time shall bring to pass,
With *pens* of Adamant on plates of brass. *Dryden*
He takes the papers, lays them down again;
And, with unwilling fingers, tries the *pen*. *Dryden*
I can, by designing the letters, tell what new idea it shall
exhibit the next moment, barely by drawing my *pen* over it,
which will neither appear, if my hands stand still; or though
I move my *pens*, if my eyes be shut. *Locke*
2. Feather.
The *pens* that did his pinnions bind,
Were like main-yards with flying canvas lin'd. *Fairy Queen*
3. Wing; though even here it may mean *feather*.
Feather'd foon and fledg'd,
They fumm'd their *pens*; and soaring th' air sublime,
With clang despis'd the ground. *Milton's Paradise Lost*
4. [From *pennan*, Saxon.] A small inclosure; a coop.
My father stole two geese out of a *pen*. *Shakespeare*
The cook was ordered to dress capons for supper, and take
the best in the *pen*. *L'Estrange*
She in *pen* his flocks will fold, *Dryden's Horace*
Ducks in thy ponds, and chickens in thy *pens*,
And be thy turkeys num'rous as thy hens. *King*
The gather'd flocks
Are in the wattled *pen* innumerable pres'd,
Head above head. *Thomson's Summer*
TO PEN. *v. a.* [*pennan* and *pinban*, Saxon.]
1. To coop; to shut up; to incage; to imprison in a narrow
place.
Away with her, *Shakespeare's Cymbeline*
My heavy son
Private in his chamber *pens* himself. *Shakespeare*
The plaster alone would *pen* the humour already contained
in the part, and forbid new humour. *Bacon*
As when a prowling wolf,
Whom hunger drives to seek new haunt for prey,
Watching where shepherds *pen* their flocks at eve